

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, and 9-11 remain pending in the application, with Claims 1, 6, 8, and 9 being independent and having been amended herein.

In the Office Action dated November 21, 2005, Claims 1-3, 6 and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,709,088 (Hayakawa, et al.).

The amendments presented herein clarify that, in marginless printing, the determination of a value equivalent to a waste ink volume is performed by counting a number of ink ejections to the overrunning area based on recording data. Consequently, when performing printing without providing a margin at the edge of the print medium, the valuation of waste ink to be used outside the edge of the printing medium is based on ink ejections corresponding to the actual recording data being printed.

In Hayakawa, et al. a constant value is set to correspond to the waste ink volume in marginless printing. Specifically, the value used in Hayakawa, et al. is not obtained based on actual recording data, but is a predetermined value set based on the printing mode or size of the printing medium. The number of ink droplets actually ejected on an overrunning area will depend on specifics of the recording data. When using a constant value, such as described in Hayakawa, et al., there likely will be a difference between the constant value and the value of the actual ejected ink on the overrunning area. The present invention overcomes this problem by obtaining the value of waste ink by counting a number of ink ejections to the overrunning area based on the recording data.

Thus, independent Claims 1, 6, 8 and 9 are patentable over Hayakawa, et al.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102 rejection are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 2, 3, 10 and 11 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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